Sanvitalia procumbens Creeping Zinnia, Trailing Sanvatalia
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Introduction
A native of Mexico, creeping zinnia is an annual vine-like plant suited as a ground cover or for use in a hanging basket (Fig. 1). It flowers from spring into the summer in the southeastern part of the country, but may suffer in the heat in the warmest parts of central Florida. It is considered tolerant of heat and drought, an unusual attribute for many other annuals. The cultivar ‘Mandarin Orange’ was a 1987 All American Selection winner, and was the first orange flowered Sanvatalia.

General Information
Scientific name: Sanvatalia procumbens
Pronunciation: san-vit-TAIL-lee-uh pro-KUM-benz
Common name(s): creeping zinnia, trailing sanvatalia

Family: Compositae
Plant type: annual
USDA hardiness zones: all zones (Fig. 2)
Planting month for zone 7: Jun; Jul
Planting month for zone 8: May; Jun
Planting month for zone 9: Apr; May
Planting month for zone 10 and 11: Feb; Mar; Nov; Dec
Origin: native to North America
Uses: hanging basket; cascading down a wall; mass planting
Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

Description
Height: .5 to 1 feet

Figure 1. Creeping zinnia
Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.
**Sanvitalia procumbens** Creeping Zinnia, Trailing Sanvitalia

**Spread:** 2 to 3 feet

**Plant habit:** round; spreading

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** medium

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**Use and Management**

Plant in the full sun for best flowering.

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**Pests and Diseases**

No pests or diseases are considered important.

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**Foliage**

- **Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite
- **Leaf type:** simple
- **Leaf margin:** entire
- **Leaf shape:** ovate
- **Leaf venation:** pinnate
- **Leaf type and persistence:** not applicable
- **Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches
- **Leaf color:** green
- **Fall color:** not applicable
- **Fall characteristic:** not applicable

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**Flower**

- **Flower color:** yellow
- **Flower characteristic:** showy

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**Fruit**

- **Fruit shape:** no fruit
- **Fruit length:** no fruit
- **Fruit cover:** no fruit
- **Fruit color:** not applicable
- **Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

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**Trunk and Branches**

- **Trunk/bark/branches:** not applicable
- **Current year stem/twig color:** green
- **Current year stem/twig thickness:** medium

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**Culture**

- **Light requirement:** plant grows in full sun
- **Soil tolerances:** acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; clay; loam
- **Drought tolerance:** high
- **Soil salt tolerances:** unknown
- **Plant spacing:** 6 to 12 inches

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**Other**

- **Roots:** not applicable
- **Winter interest:** not applicable
- **Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding
- **Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive
- **Pest resistance:** no serious pests are normally seen on the plant